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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Sapeoig Oigatigen Gômeotjoigasigel Alasotmaganel, Ginamachineoel ag Getapegiemgeoel. By Rev. Christian Kauder. New Edition by F. Pacifique, O. M. Cap. Ristigouche: The Micmac Messenger Press, 1921. Pp. xii+260.

This is a Micmac Ideogram Manual of Prayers, Instructions, Psalms, and Hymns which was first published by Father Kauder in 1866. The book has played a great part in the history of the Micmac tribe, and this new edition will be hailed with delight by the members of the tribe, which has the distinction of being named "the eldest daughter of the Church among the Indians of North America." They were the first to receive the Gospel from French missionaries in America, and fourteen years before the Quebec Act granted the free exercise of the Catholic religion to the French on the banks of the Saint Lawrence River, the Micmacs had wrested from the British Government freedom of Catholic worship for themselves and their brethren, the Acadians.

The honor of having first used hieroglyphic characters for the instruction of the Micmacs belongs to Father Leclerc, a Recollet missionary in Gaspesia; but they were so improved by Father Maillard that we cannot blame the latter, who takes to himself the credit of their invention. He composed several ideographic manuscripts during his apostolate in Nova Scotia (1735-1762) which were the only Micmac literature for a century. So they remained until 1886 when Father Kauder, a former Redemptorist, resident at the Capuchin monastery of Tracadie, Nova Scotia, published them through the financial aid of the Leopoldine-Verein in Vienna. Unfortunately only the earliest shipment of the books reached America; the rest were lost in a shipwreck. Those received were distributed among the families of the Micmac tribe. Some of them are still preserved; and the reviewer saw one of them many years ago at Wigwam Point, Norris' Arm, in Notre Dame Bay, Newfoundland, where a few Micmac families still reside.

The best evidence of the value of this precious work comes to us from the Protestant missionary, the Reverend Silas Tertius

Rand, who organized the *Protestant Micmac Missionary Society* at Halifax, Nova Scotia, November 12, 1849: "It is a marvel of literary skill and perseverance, but so far as its *use* is concerned, to say nothing of its theological errors, it is one of the grossest literary blunders that was ever perpetrated." We can readily understand the reverend gentleman's splenetic denunciation when it is stated that he labored for many weary years among the Micmacs and the sole evidence of his ministry was the conversion of one Benjamin Christmas, the only Protestant Micmac known. Benjamin was duly ostracised by the tribe.

The present volume is a faithful reprint of the Vienna edition of 1866, except that French and English headings have been substituted for the German in the original. It is edited by the Reverend Father Pacifique, O. M. Cap., of Restigouche. It was the reviewer's privilege to see this volume in proof and to watch its progress through the printery of *L'Action Catholique*, in Quebec some weeks ago and to wonder at the great care bestowed by the veteran foreman, M. Lépine. The book is typographically perfect; the only blemish being a slight misprint in the English preface. The preface, or rather the interesting historical introduction, is the work of Father Lenhart, O.M.Cap., of Pittsburgh, and it sketches briefly but comprehensively the genesis and the development of hieroglyphics among the Micmacs.

To the uninitiated these hieroglyphics seem as undecipherable as did those found by Champollion on the Egyptian obelisks to the savants of a former generation, but to the Micmacs they are as familiar as is our alphabet. Elsewhere we reproduce the *Sanctus* and the *Agnus Dei* with the French translation. Though the cost of production was large, this interesting volume sells at the low price of \$2 for the paper edition and \$3 for cloth-bound. There are a few *de luxe* volumes, splendidly bound, which may be had for \$5.

P. W. B.

American Catholics in the War. By Michael Williams. New York: The Macmillan Co. Pp. x+467.

There are always those in our country who, in order to cover up their own lack of patriotism, are ready to start an accusation against the loyalty of American Catholics. In the past,